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*December 2021 Issue >>>*

# *parish***News**



## *We Belong to Each Other*

*"Bless the Lord, my soul;  
and do not forget all his gifts."  
-Psalms 103: 2*

Dear Friends:



Welcome to the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lord Christ the King Parish! Since December of 1926 this community has been a beacon of faith for the east side of Cincinnati, growing from a tiny congregation meeting in a storefront on Mount Lookout Square, to the beautiful church, school, atrium, rectory, parish center and bell tower we have today! But, as impressive as these buildings are, it is what happens INSIDE them that really counts.

People gather here to pray, to be educated, to meet on council and committees, to help those in need, to make plans for the future, to participate in athletics, to listen to one another, and to grow. In short, we become a family. We are God's family, united as His children, caring for each other, learning from our mistakes, forgiving others' faults, and, most importantly, sharing a meal at the Eucharist time and time again.

Therefore, as we look back on over nine decades of parish life, let's thank God for our long-lasting family heritage. So many names, households, adults and children have contributed to this wonderful place being what it is. In 95 years, Christ the King has had only SIX pastors! I am so grateful to be one of them. You are a great blessing to me and Fr. Frank, as you were to all the priests who came before us.

May God bless you all as we continue our family journey to our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!  
Father Ed



*Our Lord Christ the King*  
*& Cardinal Pacelli*  
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

### Home is Where You *Hafta*

Home is where the heart is, they say. They also say, less romantically, that home is where, when you go there, they have to take you in. Hmm. They "have to."

For our purposes in this little reflection on "family," I'll focus on the second version and take the liberty of spelling "have to" as we would usually hear it: "hafta." And from there will come my main point: One of the most important things about a family, and a major reason why families are so fundamentally important is this. Family is where you learn that there are a lot of things you just "hafta" do. It goes with the territory.



It could be tempting to think of this territory as one we live in only when we are parents raising children from infancy to adulthood. Here parents face all kinds of often unexpected haftas, as they go on with patient endurance to teach haftas to their children. Then, when the children become adults, they enter a different territory. It is often thought of as one where individuals pursue happiness based on exercising their rights.

But that would be a mistake. As important as rights are they need to rest in a matrix of being ready for haftas, which remain essential all through life. An extraordinary example would be hospital workers in a time of Covid, but who doesn't appreciate a really able and generous maintenance worker?

A beloved story in my own family concerns my oldest brother; he was probably 11 or 12 at the time. In any case, he had done some pretty heavy-duty work one day and thought he should be paid for it—he had a right to it. Mom asked how much he thought he was owed. She then paid him the stipulated amount. That evening at the dinner table, on his plate was a bill for his meal; it cost exactly what he charged for his work. Wise woman, my Mother! She was giving a great lesson in hafta; in a family home, everybody will hafta contribute as needed to the common good.

And so home really is where the heart is, where it is learning not to be a hardened, self-focused heart but a smoothly beating outward-directed heart that sees with understanding and knows all about hafta, given one's abilities and circumstances.



We bow in gratitude to all those wise people who taught us about hafta, with a loving heart, and we express our solidarity with all those now raising children. Nothing we do is more important than that! Finally, we thank the Lord for the faith which underlies generosity and self-sacrifice, and for the parish, where we learn and celebrate and share that beloved faith. It has been my great privilege to be part of that all my life, especially my many years as a priest who always cherished life in a parish. Thank you!

Peace to you and yours at Christmas. Fr. Voellmecke

### The Theology of the Hammer: Habitat for Humanity

*When a man's home is born out of his heart and developed through his labor and perfected through his sense of beauty, it is the very cornerstone of life. -Gustav Stickley*

In 1998 two churches in Cincinnati came together for a special project. Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church and Mt. Zion Methodist Church partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati to build a home for a local family. They called themselves the "Shalom Coalition." Twenty-three years later the coalition is going strong. Joined by a number of other churches, including Christ the King, the group has built a total of 26 homes in the Cincinnati area.

Habitat for Humanity assists low-income families in need of affordable housing. The working families they serve are first-time homebuyers who have been living in substandard conditions. HFHGC believes generations of poverty can be broken through home ownership.

This fall, Shalom #26 was completed and became the new residence of the Pleasant family. The home in Evanston shows what is possible when volunteers and donors partner with families to build affordable housing. Owning a home makes it possible to accumulate wealth and provides stability for children.

1731 Holloway Ave. was dedicated on Saturday, October 16, in the presence of community leaders, clergy, neighbors, volunteers, friends, ambassadors of Habitat for Humanity, and the new homeowners. Ed Lee, the President and CEO of HFHGC, said, "A house is the bedrock of society."



**Parishioners Tom Wittekind and Ed Winter**



**New homeowners, the Pleasant Family**

When Tyleah Pleasant spoke about what it was like to take ownership of her new home, she said, "I'm grateful to God for the opportunity, the vision, to change things for my daughters." As part of the HFH program, Tyleah completed courses in home ownership and maintenance and contributed "sweat equity" to the building of her home. "The highlight was being able to operate a crane!" Tyleah said.

Parishioners Tom Wittekind and Ed Winter were present at the dedication. Tom acts as the liaison between the coalition and our church, providing updates and making parishioners aware of opportunities to volunteer. Ed has participated in construction and electrical work at this house and many others.

If you enjoy working with your hands and have time to give to this worthy cause, please contact **Tom Wittekind** at [twittekind@cinci.rr.com](mailto:twittekind@cinci.rr.com).

Shalom #27 is slated to begin in early spring next year in Evanston.



# Parish Finances

## Annual Report

### CHURCH

Fiscal Year  
20/21

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS	\$9,040
JUNEFEST	\$127,568
OFFERTORY	\$1,169,404
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$1,306,012</b>
SALARY	\$390,073 38%
TAX AND BENEFITS	\$157,528 15%
MAINT & REPAIRS	\$71,930 7%
UTILITIES	\$80,445 8%
CAPITAL REPAIRS	\$59,050 6%
ARCHDIOCESE ASSESSMENT	\$107,598 10%
OTHER	\$168,457 16%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,035,081</b>

NET **\$270,931**

### SCHOOL

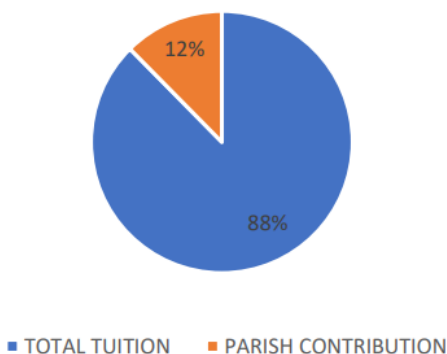
Fiscal Year  
20/21

TOTAL TUITION **\$1,862,816**

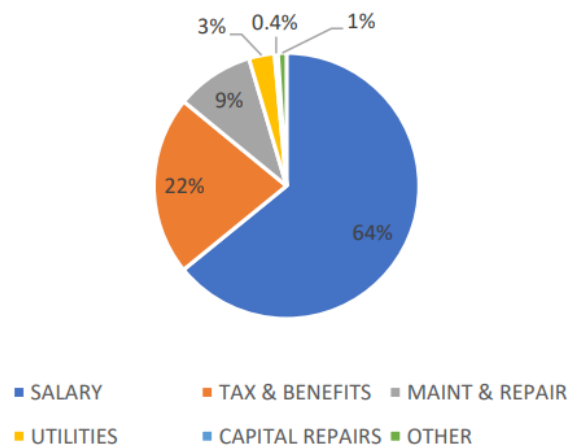
SALARY	\$1,364,064 64%
TAX & BENEFITS	\$463,360 22%
MAINT & REPAIR	\$201,985 9%
UTILITIES	\$66,468 3%
CAPITAL REPAIRS	\$8,835 0.4%
OTHER	\$22,000 1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,126,712</b>

NET **-\$263,896**  
PARISH CONTRIBUTION **\$263,896**

SCHOOL INCOME & PARISH  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXPENSES



SCHOOL EXPENSES 2020-2021





# Parish Finances

## Annual Report

### SUMMARY

The 2020-2021 Fiscal Year faced several challenges related to the pandemic; however, our parish generously came together once again leaving us in a positive financial position. The parish and school together ended the fiscal year with a positive change in net assets of \$7,035.

The Cross and Crown Atrium was a great asset during the pandemic. The gathering space and adjacent rooms allowed us to stream Masses to multiple TVs so that we could worship while remaining socially distant. These large rooms are allowing us to continue many in-person activities and meetings for which we are thankful.

We were able to replace the roof and HVAC units for the Parish Center as well as clean and seal the exterior limestone on our church and tower over the summer. Our Facilities Staff has been busy tackling several projects to beautify our buildings and grounds and stay ahead of costly repairs.

### Cardinal Pacelli School

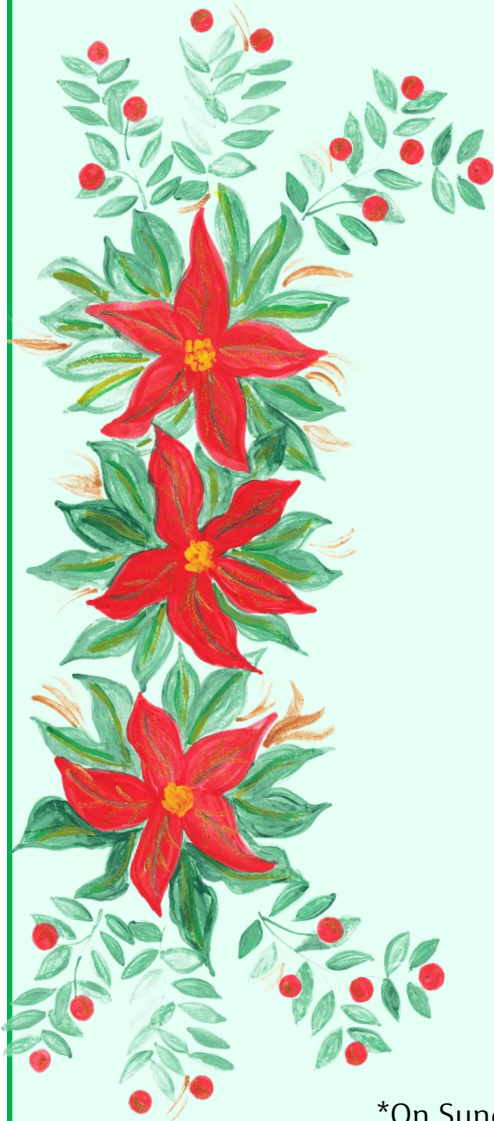
Our wonderful school was able to remain open for in person learning when so many other schools could not. This, combined with our small class sizes and dedicated staff, has allowed us to increase our enrollment at a time when most Catholic schools are experiencing a decline. Our enrollment jumped from 357 in 2019-2020 to 372 in 2020-2021 and again to 374 for the current 2021-2022 school year. The increased enrollment has helped to lower the contribution needed from the parish. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the parish provided \$263,896 towards the total operational expense of \$2,126,712, which is approximately 12%. In the past, the parish contribution has been as high as 20%. We continue to review and analyze trends and projections to keep our enrollment affordable while providing a superlative education.

As we look ahead, we know we will continue to face challenges, but we know that with our wonderful school and parish families and staff, we can meet and beat anything that may come our way. Stewardship is a shared responsibility, and we are blessed that so many give of their time, talent, and treasure. We pledge to continue to be good stewards of this generosity. God bless you and for all you give to our community.



Our vibrant parish is filled with individuals who repeatedly commit their time, talent and resources to our success. This fall, the **Bourbon & Bowties JuneFest Gala** raised **\$93,000!** The dedicated volunteers who made this fun night of games and fellowship happen are truly a blessing to our parish. *Thank you!*





# *Christmas Schedule*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Friday, December 24th**

Mass—4:00 p.m. (Children's)

Mass—6:00 p.m.

Mass—9:00 p.m. (Choir)

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Saturday, December 25th**

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

(Please Note: There is no 4:30 p.m. Mass)

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**Friday, December 31st—5:00 p.m.**

## **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**Saturday, January 1st—9:00 a.m.**

(Please Note: There is no 4:30 p.m. Mass)

\*On Sunday, Dec. 26 we will follow our regular Mass schedule.

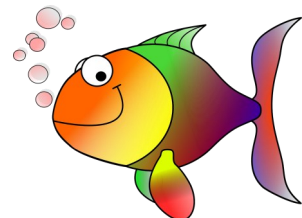
\*This Mass schedule is subject to change due to COVID19.

Please check our website, [www.olctk.org](http://www.olctk.org) for updates.



**The Ron Speed  
Basketball Tournament  
January 6-17**

**The Blessing of Throats  
In Honor of St. Blaise  
Sunday, February 6**



**Fish Fries are BACK!  
March 18 & 25  
We'll see you there!**

***Coming in 2022!***



Parish council members, left to right: John Brannock, Sharon Stanton, Tim Craft, Fr. Ed, Brian Albanese, and Lily Kukulski. Not present: Nancy Pater, Gigi Robison, and Sharon Weckel.

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**Parish Council acts as an advisory group. Members share responsibility to assist Fr. Ed in decision-making regarding the programs and activities at Christ the King. During this season of thanksgiving and celebration, members reflect upon what their experience has meant to them.**

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“It is inspiring to see people of all ages (kindergarten all the way to 90+) contribute to all the good we spread into our parish and surrounding community. The old adage, you get more by giving holds true with being engaged at Christ the King Parish.”

-Tim Craft

“Parish Council brings all corners of the parish operation together. Many years ago I served on parish council. Now, I am here again! Just as in scripture, it takes many different parts to create the one body—the parish.”

-Sharon Stanton

“What I love about being a part of this parish is the never ending supply of positive energy, ‘can do’ attitude, and camaraderie. No matter what the challenge this parish always steps up to meet the demands. No matter the event, you will always be able to feel the energy of our wonderful community while having some great laughs.”

-Brian Albanese

“Parish Council has been a great way for me to be involved in our Parish - to learn about all of the good work that many parishioners are doing, to understand activities that are being planned in our parish, and to provide feedback as part of the planning process. What I love about Parish Council - and what is so important - is that we have persons included from all stages in life, so we can have diverse feedback. I am grateful to have Father Ed lead our Parish Council, with his friendliness and practical wisdom.”

-Gigi Robison



## Parishioner Spotlight: The Cooleys

### Expanding the Meaning of Family

When Dave and Lindsay Cooley moved to Anderson, a sign on Beechmont Avenue kept calling to them. “It said ‘Foster Parents Needed’ and every time we drove by that sign I just thought, *that’s something we should do*,” said Dave.

Becoming foster parents has become a way of life for the Cooleys, who have opened their home to five foster children during the past six years. The Cooleys who have four children of their own, are currently foster parents to two-year-old twins, Gianna “Gia” and Augustine “Gus.” They are quick to point out that fostering children is a family affair.



“One of the great changes that comes with being a foster parent is seeing how a child impacts your own children. The experience has made our own children much more tolerant,” said Dave.

Once the couple, who have been married thirteen years, decided to become foster parents, they quickly completed the county requirements which included a ten-week class at Beech Acres in Anderson, a home study and a background check. In 2015, they went on the “open bed list” meaning they would accept any child with an urgent need for a home. Within 11 days they welcomed their first foster child, Anthony.

Dave explains that foster care is for children who need a safe place to stay when their family of origin is in crisis. “We know the children will be placed with us on a temporary basis while the courts work out the next steps.” It is often a chaotic process. Anthony came to them as a two-month old and ended up staying for three years. The main goal of foster care is to eventually reunify the child with his family of origin or a relative, so the Cooleys have to keep in mind that the child will eventually leave.

With Anthony it was quite difficult when he was reunified with his grandmother. “They are your kid,” said Lindsay. “It’s hard when they leave. You miss them but you’re thankful for the time you had with them and hope you had an impact on their life.”



“Our whole family got attached to Anthony. We struggled with his departure. Because of that, before we decide to take another child, we have a family discussion. We always ask our children if they want to do it. They have always said yes,” said Dave.

**“My Catholic faith changed me, helping me to recognize I’m here for a purpose, which is to serve others. I looked at my faith as a challenge.”**



## *Parish Life*

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Dave and Lindsay have six children and they don't mind telling you the secret to their success. "The secret is that there is no secret!" said Lindsay. She explains that all the kids are different and that what works for one does not always work for the others. As parents, she believes they make it work because they aren't "type A personalities," and can be flexible.

Dave reflects on his own journey to becoming a foster Dad. "Growing up I wasn't always this great charming guy. I could be difficult and selfish. My Catholic faith changed me, helping me to recognize I'm here for a purpose which is to serve others. I looked at my faith as a challenge. Fostering pushed me out of my comfort zone."

Lindsay says that being Catholic made her see how each life had value. "Even though some of these families made terrible decisions, I knew they still deserved grace. They still deserved our help." Lindsay and Dave will be the first to tell you that they don't have it all figured out. It takes a massive effort to get everyone out the door to church each Sunday. Lindsay says if you look closely enough you may see that Gia is wearing Gus's pants or someone isn't wearing socks, but in the end it works.

Dave said, "Once I stood up to take a crying child out of Mass, and Fr. Frank stopped mid-homily to say, 'You don't have to go,' and I cringed thinking all eyes were on us and our screaming child." Yet, the Cooleys say that they have never felt anything except warm acceptance from their parish family. "Your parish family is an extension of your own family. We want to thank the parishioners for supporting us on this journey."

Dave and Andrea have plans to adopt Gia and Gus in February of 2022. These parents are glad they will not have to say goodbye to the toddlers. Be sure to stop by and say hello when you're at church.



The Cooley Family (left to right) Felicity (7), Asher (11), Lindsay holding Augustine (2), Dave holding Vera (3), and Charlotte (12) holding Gianna (2) .

# *Cardinal Pacelli School News*

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## ***A Message from Mrs. Cento***

### **A Family Model for Cardinal Pacelli Students**

It is all about Families here at Cardinal Pacelli School. Several years ago, Cardinal Pacelli School instituted a buddy system which operates like a family. Since the family unit is the backbone of our society, we decided to create the most family-friendly environment with our students and staff and call it Saint Families.

We have created 21 school families with two students from each grade level, led by the eighth graders. A faculty member serves as an advisor for each family. The saint families meet once per month for spiritual and social development activities which often involve a holiday or holy day. Sometimes, even a group sing-a-long at Christmastime fosters the family feeling right here at school!



Students remain in these families throughout their entire time at Cardinal Pacelli, and as the eighth graders graduate, the new Kindergarteners take their place. A saint is assigned to each group and posters are displayed outside the classrooms and when we attend Mass as a Saint Family, banners are hung on the pews.

Saint Families focus on following in the footsteps of Jesus as they get to know each other better and learn to work cooperatively. Building a deeper understanding of community help us develop a strong solidarity among everyone in the school. We hope to see our students develop an understanding that for a community to prosper, each of its members must be responsible and contribute positively to the whole community.

Warmly, Mrs. Cento

**Our Catholic Schools Week Open House  
is Sunday, January 30, 2022!**





# Cardinal Pacelli School News

## A Feast of Fractions

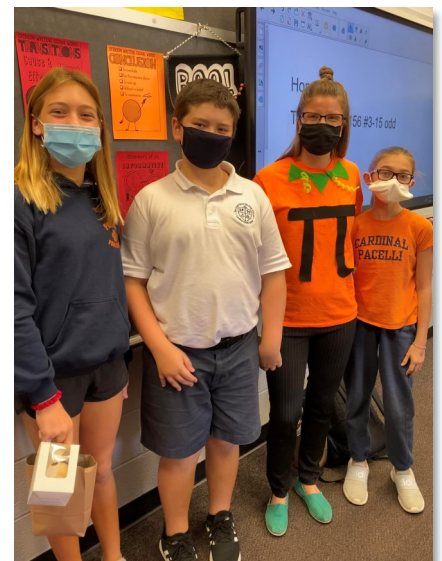
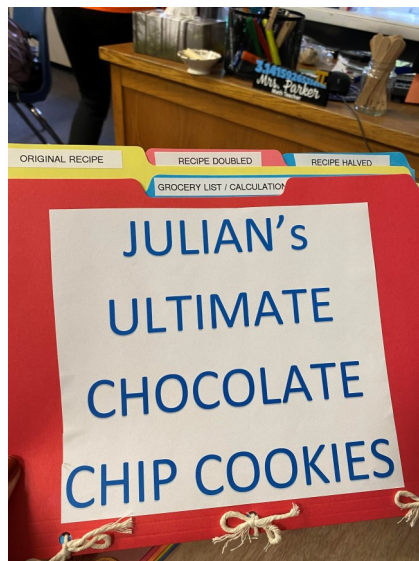
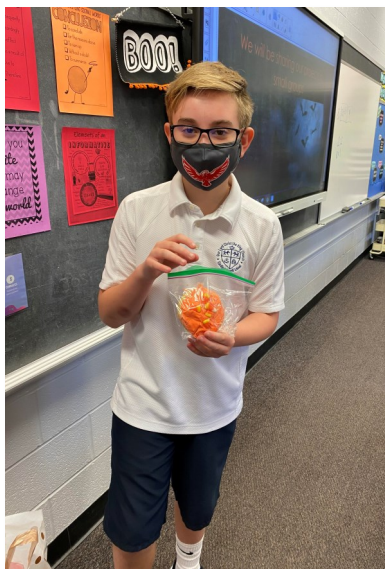
The week before Halloween, Cardinal Pacelli's sixth graders celebrated with a Fraction Feast. The goal was to use recipes to practice fractions and then enjoy the results in a classroom party. The day students presented their projects, their classroom became a veritable bake shop filled with delicious home-baked treats such as chocolate chip cookies, beignets, banana muffins, and cupcakes.

Max Nelson made his grandmother's recipe for decorated pumpkin cookies. Addy Thompson, who made Easy Brownies, said, "I was really excited when I found out we would be cooking, but then I didn't realize it would come with some hard work!"

One of the more challenging aspects of the assignment was converting ingredients to unusual measurements. Their teacher, Mrs. Parker, taught them a way to convert the fractions using a "keep, change, flip" method. Then they wrote out the halved and doubled recipes which were eventually shared in a poster, cookbook, or recipe box format. Kaitlyn Storer explained how calculating the fractions over and over helped to get the concept in her head.

Maren Cianciolo baked beignets which she tasted on a trip to New Orleans. She used yeast in the recipe for the fluffy French style donuts and let the dough raise for two hours.

Students took turns passing out their special creations, eager to see what their classmates had whipped up in the kitchen. Noah Steigerwald, who made banana muffins, felt proud of his first attempt at baking. "This project made me realize I really can cook."







*Our Lord Christ the King  
& Cardinal Pacelli*

CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

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***Merry Christmas from Christ the King!***



**“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” – 2 Corinthians 9:15**